

CIVIL WAR 1861

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WAR EPISODES

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Civil War Episodes

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Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

THE
The Charleston Mercury gives the following opinion of Mr. Lincoln:

"That our readers may not fail to understand the views and policy of Lincoln, as regards the Confederate States, we will call attention to his remarks at Indianapolis. In his opinion, the United States, holding those forts which have not yet been captured, and retaking those which have been captured by the Confederate States, and the collection of duties in their harbors, is neither coercion or invasion, but a gentle exercise of legitimate power toward so many rebellious counties, to bring them to their senses. *Lincoln is a cool man; an able man; a determined man; a man not of words, but of action, who says what he means, and means what he says; an earnest man withal, and no politician.* Our readers may come to their own conclusions."

BOSTON ADV

G TRANSCRIPT, MOND

BY TELEGRAPH

TO THE

BOSTON DAILY EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE TRANSCRIPT.]

Unfounded Rumors from the South.

GEN. CASS VISITS MR. LINCOLN.

MR. GREELEY ON THE EXTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, Monday noon.

Unfounded rumors have been in circulation to-day in regard to some despatches reported to have been received by the President from the South announcing the capture of Pensacola.

The story was undoubtedly based on some despatches to Secretary Toucey, which contained nothing important.

Northern readers may be assured that all reports in regard to an attack on Fort Sumter are unfounded, as the Carolinians dare not risk an assault on Maj. Anderson. They would be most ingloriously defeated; hence their shyness.

Gen. Cass called upon Mr. Lincoln this morning, in company with Mr. Seward, and paid his respects to the President elect. The veteran wept when speaking of the condition of the country.

After Mr. Cass withdrew, Mr. Lincoln was closeted with Mr. Seward. While they were thus occupied, Horace Greeley called to see the new President, and was answered that he was engaged.

The Traveller has the following special despatch from Washington:

Mr. Seward's son met Mr. Lincoln in Harrisburg, on Friday, with a message from Messrs. Seward, Scott and Holt.

This message announced the formation of a conspiracy to take the life of Mr. Lincoln, which was confirmed by a Philadelphia police detective, who had obtained some knowledge of the facts of the case.

They urged Mr. Lincoln to anticipate this conspiracy by a sudden and secret journey to Washington, and after considerable discussion Mr. Lincoln reluctantly consented.

The Democrats are disappointed at this unexpected movement, while the Republicans generally applaud it.

Mr. Lincoln was not disguised with a cap and cloak, as has been asserted. In this respect the story is untrue.

Letters have been sent to Mr. Lincoln, warning him of the political fate of Tyler, Fillmore and Webster.

The Rhode Island Peace Commissioners have solicited of Mr. Lincoln to favor a compromise, but Mr. Lincoln refused, asking what he was elected for but to secure freedom for the Territories.

The action of the Peace Congress is dependent upon Mr. Lincoln.

[TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

Boston Transcript
Feb. 25, 1861

B. Transcript - April 20, 1861
Latest by Telegraph.
GREAT EXCITEMENT IN
BALTIMORE.

**The President Notified that no
More Troops will be
Allowed to Pass
Through.**

**THE WHOLE CITY UNDER
ARMS.**

The Killed in Yesterday's Fight.

Baltimore, 20th. The city is greatly excited. Military and armed men are moving in every direction.

The Mayor and Governor have notified the President that no more troops can pass through Baltimore unless they fight their way. The bridges on the Northern and Central Roads are all destroyed.

The number of killed yesterday was eleven citizens and three Massachusetts troops. Wounded—eight soldiers and four citizens.

The President says that no more troops will be brought through Baltimore, provided they are allowed to pass armed around the city unmolested,

BOSTON DAILY EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

THIRTY-FOUR UNION COMPANIES OFFERED FROM KENTUCKY.

WILSON'S ZOUAVES SUPPOSED TO BE EN ROUTE FOR CHARLESTON.

Harper's Ferry Occupied by Fed- eral Troops.

RUMORED DEATH OF ALEX. H. STEPHENS.

THE "PEACE PROPOSALS" AGAIN.

The President's Disapproval of Gen. McLel- land's Bargain with Gov. Magoffin.

THE REBELS EAGER FOR ATTACK- ING WASHINGTON.

A Collector for New Orleans, with a Force to Back Him.

FEARS OF SLAVE INSURRECTIONS.

New York, 25th. A despatch to the Herald says offensive movements will doubtless be deferred till after the meeting of Congress, when preparations will be perfected along the whole line from the Potomac to the Mississippi.

Thirty-four Kentucky companies have been tendered to the government.

The Herald's correspondent says it is quite likely that Wilson's Zouaves have gone to Charleston instead of Fort Pickens.

The War Department has been informed that Col. Stone has entered Harper's Ferry and is amply able to hold it.

A report is current that Alexander H. Stephens is dead.

A rebel shot by a New Hampshire sentinel has acknowledged that he was a spy in the employ of the rebels. He pretended that he could not speak English, but a bullet opened the way to "Lindley Murray."

A despatch to the Tribune says the rebels have made two propositions of peace to the Administration. One contemplates the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, with a treaty for commerce, friendship, and a subsidy of five millions for giving protection against foreign or domestic enemies. The other a consent to the suspension of hostilities, and the extension of the line of 36 30 to the Pacific.

It is reported that the President will repudiate General McClellan's treaty of alliance with Gov. Magoffin.

A citizen of Warrenton, Va., who reached Washington yesterday, reports that the rebels at Manassas Junction are in a frenzy of excitement over the meditated attack on Washington. They freely assert that they will be there before Saturday night. He estimates that there are 20,000 at Manassas and Fairfax Court House, 20,000 on the line from Manassas to the Potomac, and 20,000 at Aquia Creek and neighborhood.

It is said that a brother-in-law of Jeff. Davis still holds an \$1800 clerkship in the war department, whose son is in the rebel army, and a correspondence is kept up between them.

The deserter who swam to the Pawnee is named McDonnell, of Worcester, Mass.

Wm. D. Gallagher of Kentucky has been appointed Collector of New Orleans, and has joined our forces at Cairo, whence he will follow the flag down the Mississippi till it floats over the Crescent City.

There is no doubt but recruits, provisions, &c., are constantly crossing the river from Maryland to Virginia.

Two slaves from Fairfax have offered their services as cooks to the 2d Michigan regiment and have been accepted.

Col. Butler arrived here today from Fortress Monroe with despatches.

A despatch to the World says the Capitol is now ready for occupation. The injury done to the buildings by the soldiers does not exceed \$150.

The 3d Coun. regiment took a position this morning as the extreme outpost commanding the road entering Alexandria from Fairfax.

A despatch to the Times says that the reason of the rebels making prisoners by subterfuges in the shape of women, as in the case of Capt. Kellogg of the Connecticut regiment, is that if the pirates recently caught are hung, an equal number of prisoners will also be hung.

Fears are entertained in towns on the lower part of the Potomac river of a slave insurrection. There is much uneasiness in consequence.

Further evidence shows Minister Harvey to have been the confidential correspondent of the Charleston Mercury.

It is intimated that Mr. Lamar of New York is seriously exposed by the seized telegraphic despatches.

The correspondent of the Times asserts that blank passes are left with hotel proprietors to fill with the names of only their friends, and thus numbers of traitors and spies have free access to our troops, which they make good use of.

New York, 25th. The Harriet Lane arrived this morning from Fortress Monroe with the master and three of the crew of the prize brig Halle Jackson, and four officers and nine of the crew of the pirate ship Savannah.

The Harriet Lane will repair before leaving.

Cincinnati, 25th. The gunboat N. C. Tyler dropped down the river yesterday. Two more will leave today.

The Ohio 10th regiment left for Western Virginia yesterday. Two more regiments will leave tomorrow.

There are now seven regiments at Camp Dennison, and the 1st and 2d regiments will reach there today.

Patrick Henry was shot dead by the police last night, for interfering in an arrest.

A despatch from Grafton considers it certain that 5000 rebels are encamped thirteen miles beyond Philadelphia, including a Georgia and Tennessee regiment. All well armed.

General Portersfield's troops and others, numbering three thousand, are kept back at Huttonville. Skirmishes continue between the pickets.

The 6th, 2d and 14th Ohio regiments are concentrating at Philadelphia.

It is rumored that all the rebels but one hundred cavalry have left Roma.

About 20 prisoners were discharged today, most of them voluntarily taking the oath of allegiance.

Col. Skey and Duran have been detailed to examine the prisoners who will hold traitors, and turn them over to the civil authorities, except guerillas, who will be shot.

Reminiscences of the 6th New York Regiment

B. Transcript — July 27, 1861
**Visit of the President and Secretary
Seward to Col. Corcoran's
Regiment.**

New York, 24th. A despatch to the Herald, from Washington, states that 200,000 men have been ordered here from the different States, including New England and New York, which is being responded to nobly, and the contractors are chucking.

The President and Secretary Seward visited the 6th New York Regiment at Fort Corcoran, who pressed their determination to enlist for the war. The President has written a letter complimenting this Regiment on its bravery.

FROM MISSOURI.

Re-transcripted — 27th 10, 1861

THE STATE CONVENTION.

Important Ordinance Passed.

St. Louis, 17th. A section of the ordinance passed yesterday by the convention provides that all persons taking the oath prescribed by this ordinance within thirty days will be exempt from the penalties incurred by being in arms against the government, and requests the President to proclaim exemption in the name of the people of Missouri, to all persons taking said oath, from all penalties incurred by taking up arms against the United States, or giving aid or comfort and aid to the enemy in the present civil war.

Mr. Buchanan on the War.

At the great Union meeting at Hayesville, Chester county, on the 1st instant, the following letter from Ex-President Buchanan was read:

WHEATLAND, near Lancaster, Pa.,

1861, September 28, 1861.

Dear Sir:—I have been honored by your kind invitation as Chairman of the appointed committee to attend and address a Union meeting of the citizens of Chester and Lancaster counties, to be held at Hayesville on the 1st of October.

This I should gladly accept, proceeding as it does from a much valued portion of my old Congressional District, but advancing years and the present state of my health render it impossible. You correctly estimate the deep interest which I feel, in common with the citizens who will there be assembled, in the present condition of our country.

It is indeed serious, but our recent military reverses, so far from producing despondency in the minds of a loyal and powerful people, will only animate them to more mighty exertions in sustaining a war which has become inevitable by the assault of the Confederate States upon Fort Sumter.

For this reason, were it possible, waiving all other topics, I should confine myself to a strong and earnest appeal to my countrymen, and especially those without families, to volunteer for the war, and join the many thousands of brave and patriotic volunteers who are already in the field. This is the moment for action, for prompt, energetic and united action, and not for the discussion of peace propositions.

These, we must know, would be rejected by the States that have seceded, unless we should offer to recognize their independence, which is entirely out of question. Better counsels may hereafter prevail, and these people shall be convinced that the war is conducted not for their conquest or subjugation, but solely for the purpose of bringing them back to their original position in the Union, without infringing in the slightest degree with any of their constitutional rights.

Whilst, therefore, we shall cordially hail their return under our common glorious flag, and welcome them as brothers, yet until that happy day shall arrive, it will be our duty to support the President with all the men and means at the command of the country in a vigorous and successful prosecution of the war.

Yours, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

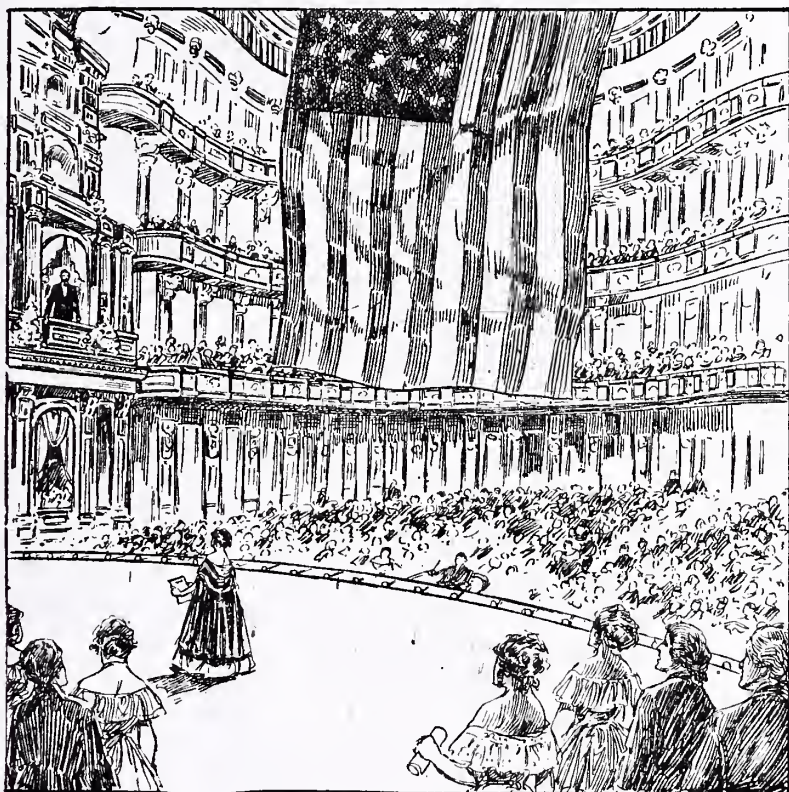
Enc. to Observer Jan. 1861

ON THE EVE OF WAR

Fifty Years Ago Today.

Feb 19, 1861 — Abraham Lincoln, the "Mere Village Politician from Illinois," Captures the Hostile City Of New York.

The Globe's great series of war stories will be unusually interesting the present week. They will describe the memorable scene of Lincoln raising the flag at Independence hall, Philadelphia, and his prophetic speech at that time, when he solemnly said he would rather be assassinated than give up the union. A graphic account of the secret night journey of the President-elect through hostile Baltimore, under the escort of Allan Pinkerton, will also be included among the articles that will make the series in the Daily Globe notable this week.



DEMONSTRATION FOR LINCOLN ON HIS APPEARANCE AT THE OPERA.

We have come to the 50th anniversary of the most stirring events in American history, the great revolt of the South and the mighty uprising of the North in the war that overthrew slavery and kept the union whole. The Globe will unfold for its readers the story of that tragic period day by day so that they can follow its dramatic occurrences just as if they were living in the historic days of '61.

All the stirring scenes will be reproduced in a way that will vividly bring them back to the memories of the older people and that will indelibly impress them on the minds even of the children. There will be a story every day that will mark the semicentennial of some important action in the moving drama of the nation on the eve of the Civil War.

Not only will events in the north be depicted, but the causes of the war and the development of the Confederacy will be traced, impartially and graphically. Collected, the articles will form a simple, complete and accurate pictorial history of the successive steps that led up to the first shot in the great conflict.

FIFTY years ago today Abraham Lincoln, President-elect, reached New York city on his tour of the east preceding his inauguration.

He was greeted by an influential section of the metropolitan press as "a mere village politician from Illinois, raised to a giddy height by an accident," a kind of homespun joker who must be shown that the salvation of the country depended not on him, but on better men—from New York—whose advice he must accept.

Lincoln had been in New York before, the last time when he delivered his famous Cooper union speech, Feb 7, 1860. But then he had been only a western orator and was scarcely a presidential possibility. He had made a deep impression on men who followed political affairs, but it could not be said that he had made the acquaintance of the city's great rank and file, its men, women and children who would want to see a President-elect.

The political press of the city, with few exceptions, had been bitter against Lincoln in the campaign, and when he arrived there 50 years ago today he found New York a hostile city. Although he was to stay in it but two days, he had scarcely been there two hours when the city surrendered to him: The fog of political misrepresentation lifted and he was seen by the people for what he was—the great-hearted patriot, the human, every-day, simple, lovable man of the people.

Lincoln had not been entirely at ease in coming to New York. Though he was no stranger to smaller cities, he was no more in touch with the ways of the American metropolis than any other resident of a small prairie town in Illinois.

But the visit to New York was to prove a notable event, in more ways than one. Not alone would it serve to introduce the real Lincoln to the people of New York, but it was to culminate in one of the most striking patriotic demonstrations Lincoln had ever witnessed, with himself, the plain country lawyer, the object and center of it.

Lincoln's Arrival.

Lincoln and his party, including his family and about a dozen friends and advisers, had left his home city of Springfield on Feb 11. They had stopped in Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo and Albany, besides many smaller places; and Lincoln had made many speeches. He was therefore much fatigued when he reached New York, at 3 in the afternoon of Feb 19.

Frequent stops had been made on the journey from Albany, and large crowds had gathered to catch a glimpse of "the great rail-splitter," as friendly newspapers called him. At Poughkeepsie there had been calls for "the children," and when Mrs Lincoln came forward with one of her sons the crowd cheered her.

The presidential party came in at the old west 31st-st station and were met by the usual municipal delegation. They were driven down 9th av to 23d-st—Lincoln riding "in an open barouche drawn by six coal black horses"—down 5th av to 14th st, and thence down Broadway to the Astor house. The crowds along the route were described as "respectful but not demonstrative."

There was the usual dinner, attended by eminent politicians, after which Mr Lincoln was hustled down to the "ordinary," or street floor dining room, where he was asked to address a large crowd of members of republican clubs.

There had been much discussion of Lincoln's reticence in declaring what he should do, when he became President, to avert war. He had been quizzed, advised, even bullied by press and publicists of the northern states, and still he had not committed himself.

Astor House Speech.

Lincoln's speech on this occasion, though brief, showed clearly the lofty grounds on which he deferred announcing his policy. He said:

While the political drama being enacted in this country at this time is rapidly shifting its scenes, forbidding an anticipation with any degree of certainty, today, of what we shall see tomorrow, it is peculiarly fitting that I should see it all, up to the last minute, before I should take ground that I might be disposed, by the shifting of

the scenes afterward, also to shift. I have said several times upon this journey, and I now repeat it to you, that when the time does come I shall then take the ground that I think is right—right for the north, for the south, for the east, for the west, for the whole country. And in doing so I hope to feel no necessity pressing upon me to say anything in conflict with the constitution, in conflict with the continued union of these states, in conflict with the perpetuation of the liberties of this people.

After this speech Lincoln was obliged to address a throng gathered outside the hotel, which he did by stepping out on the arch over the front entrance. He spoke briefly.

These speeches were more or less garbled in the reports made of them, but before they appeared New York had already made up its mind on Lincoln.

Reception at City Hall.

The next day—Feb 20—was to make a really notable one in the simple life of the great American.

In the morning Lincoln was the guest at the home of Moses Grinnell, ship owner and financier. In the forenoon he visited the city hall and was received by Mayor Fernando Wood and other members of the city government. In response to an address by the mayor, Lincoln spoke briefly. As in all his other speeches on this journey, his words breathed deep devotion to the union.

"In devotion to the union," he said, "I hope I am behind no man in the nation. As to my wisdom in conducting affairs so as to tend to the preservation of the union, I fear too great confidence may have been placed in me. I am sure I bring a heart devoted to the work. There is nothing that could ever bring me to consent—willingly to consent—to the destruction of this union (in which not only the great city of New York, but the whole country, has acquired its greatness), unless it would be that thing for which the union itself was made."

So long as it is possible that the prosperity and liberties of this people can be preserved within this union it shall be my purpose at all times to preserve it."

For two hours after this speech Lincoln stood with his back to a statue of Washington (by Houdon) and received the plain folks of New York, whom he was delighted to meet.

His First Opera.

That evening there was a banquet for Lincoln at the Astor house, which he left about 8 o'clock to go to the opera—the first he had ever attended—at the academy of Music, at Irving pl and 14th st. Mrs Lincoln did not accompany her husband, as she was obliged to host a reception for women at the hotel.

One of the incidents of that evening that stuck in the memory of some New Yorkers was that Lincoln transgressed social laws by wearing black gloves. Far more significant was the impression Lincoln made on the people who saw him and the tremendous enthusiasm with which he was greeted.

It was here fashionable New York caught a glimpse of the real Lincoln for the first time. The spirit of the scene and its picturesque points were happily preserved by newspaper writers of the day.

Lincoln arrived with a small party of men about 8:30 and quietly entered a second-tier box on the audience's right. The opera, Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera," had begun about 8.

A writer for a weekly paper humorously described the scene, and his impression of Lincoln, as follows:

"There was a very brilliant assemblage present, and a most unusual display of female beauty, enough to dazzle any one unaccustomed to the magnificent features of metropolitan society. There was but little apparent excitement, but countless fair heads were turned to the right and to the left, as though undecided in which quarter the expected apparition would appear.

But the introduction passed over and no sign being given, the audience settled down to listen to the music. Brignoli sang most charmingly and Miss Hinkley warbled her Arietta like a bird.

"We were silently enjoying all this when a buzz and burr aroused us, and turning to the left, we beheld 1000 double-barreled opera glasses all turned in one direction to the right.

"We followed the stream of glances and saw the largest amount of President the country has yet afforded. We do not speak under oath, nor even from positive conviction, but we think we saw seven feet of President—at least, calculating from the knees upward.

"The lower extremities were hidden by the front of the box and a wild wish flashed across our mind that when he sat down he would put his feet on the cushioned front, that our calculations might be more accurate, and satisfy us that all we saw belonged to our new President.

How Lincoln Looked.

"The remainder of the music in the first act went for nothing. The audience was all eyes, and the universal ears were unnaturally shortened, and for the time functionless. We all glared at Lincoln, we mentally devoured him, but we are bound to confess that he did not seem to be in the least degree disturbed by this double-barreled opera-glass attack.

"He examined the house, and we are rather inclined to think that he made some jocular remark upon the subject to his friends. He seemed to take a profound interest in his growing beard; he fondled his chin, he pulled the stubby hair on either side of his face as though he longed to stretch it out to regulation length. We are satisfied that he believes his coming beard improves his personal appearance. Well, perhaps it does, but that's a matter of opinion.

"Well, the curtain dropped upon the first act, and as yet there had been no demonstration, but then arose a thunder of applause and a whirlwind of cries of 'Lincoln! Lincoln!' Amid the din of cries and applause the President commenced to uncoil himself, and as foot after foot unfolded itself before the public gaze more deafening became the noise and clamor. He bowed his acknowledgments and bowed them again.

"Calm and self-possessed, he gave one the idea of power, stern, rugged and uncompromising; but still there was in the smile something gentle, benevolent and kindly, giving the assurance that justice would be tempered with mercy, and that stern principle would be leavened with that wisdom which springs from a knowledge of the human heart and a sympathy with human weakness."

An Unusual Scene.

A daily paper—the same that greeted Lincoln as "a mere village politician,"—next morning contained this account of what followed at the beginning of the next act:

"The scene went up and discovered the whole force of the opera troop on the stage with their unrolled musical scrolls. The audience were inclined to applaud, but they were prevented by the advance of Miss Hinkley to the front, who, turning to Mr Lincoln's box, and yet partially facing the audience, sang in her clear, sweet voice, the first stanza of the popular hymn, 'The Star Spangled Banner.'"

"The chorus was taken up in a most spirited manner by the whole troupe, and it seemed to want very little to induce the audience to join. Just before the first verse was begun there were cries of 'All up,' to which the audience unanimously responded and all with common consent rose to their feet. Mr Lincoln and his attendants were about the last to rise, and not long after he was on his feet the chorus was concluded amid rapturous applause as the words were echoed:

The star spangled banner—O! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

"A splendid union American banner, blazing with the full glory of 33 stars, was dropped from the proscenium with an effect that words can scarcely convey. The enthusiasm and excitement of the people was unbounded, and though Mr Lincoln was passive and collected, there could be no doubt that he was greatly affected by the solemnity of the manifestation."

Tears in Many Eyes.

The account previously quoted at this point said:

"The voices grew hoarse with shouting, and the hands grew tired with clapping and waving hats and handkerchiefs, and the faces of the people flushed up and tears were in many eyes; and Americans felt that night the enthusiasm of loyalty—loyalty to their country—loyalty to their brotherhood and loyalty to that glorious flag that has covered millions of freemen and has ever waved in the van of civilization and progress."

The reporter for the daily paper continued his story thus:

"The second verse of the anthem was sung by Miss Phillips, and so on through the song alternately with Miss Hinkley. The last verse was sung with great pathos and feeling.

"Before the applause subsided, Muzio (the conductor) started the other national song, 'Hail Columbia' from the orchestra. It was received with loud applause.

"Cheers were then given for Lincoln from the upper boxes, followed by cheers for Muzio and the opera singers, after which the excitement gradually subsided and the opera was allowed to proceed.

"Mr Lincoln did not remain longer than the close of the second act. He left immediately after and did not return, though everyone thought he would come back. His departure was effected as quietly as his entrance."

Gen Scott orders Gen Harney to defend the military post at St Louis; in tomorrow's Globe.

Five Tried To Head Off Civil War

By DAVID PICKMAN

BOSTON (UP) — Letters made public today for the first time reveal a last-minute attempt to head off the Civil War at a "summit conference" of the five living ex-Presidents just after the fall of Fort Sumter.

Ex-President Franklin Pierce, home in Concord, N. H., after a European tour, proposed to senior ex-President Martin Van Buren that he call such a conference at Philadelphia, "the city where the Constitution was formed."

The letter from Pierce and Van Buren's reply were purchased recently by Maury A. Brooks, Boston collector of rare books, manuscripts and works of art. He told the United Press he bought them from the collection of the late Albert F. Madlener of Hubbard Woods, Ill., at a New York auction two weeks ago for a high but undisclosed price.

The letters are notable for the fact that they do not mention Abraham Lincoln who had been inaugurated only a few weeks earlier and was then facing the terrible decisions leading to four years of war.

The Pierce letter was dated April 16, 1861, four days after Fort Sumter was fired on by Confederate Gen. P. T. Beauregard, and two days after the little Union garrison under Maj. Robert Anderson surrendered.

"Is there any human power which can avert the conflict of arms now apparently near at hand between the two sections of the Union?" Pierce wrote "There is no time for effective assemblages of the people— no time for conventions or protracted discussion—but it has occurred to me that you may take measures to suspend active military operations, secure opportunity for further reflection in the face of present dangers, and save the most fearful calamity which has ever impended over a nation.

"If the five retired Presidents of the United States, still living, were to meet at the earliest practicable day at the city where the Constitution was formed, might not their consultation, if it should result in concurrence of judgment, reach the administration and the country with some degree of power?"

Pierce singled out Van Buren, then 78 years old, as the oldest living ex-President. "No man can with propriety summons such a meeting but yourself," he wrote.

"Whatever the result may be, can we permit our remaining days or years to be disturbed by the consciousness that, after having been honored by the confidence of the Republic we have passively seen it drift to destruction?"

"Should this suggestion commend itself to your judgment, will you communicate with Mr. Tyler, Mr. Fillmore (sic) and Mr. Buchanan, and advise me of the result?"

VanBuren's reply, half again as long as Pierce's 279-word plea, was dated April 20 at "Lindenwald," his estate near Kinderhook, N. Y. He politely refused to call the meeting.

He chided Pierce gently for his "erroneous supposition" that the "Senior ex-President" should call such a meeting. VanBuren, known as the "Little Magician" of the Democratic Party in the Jacksonian era, suggested Buchanan as the "latest incumbent." VanBuren was president from 1837 to 1841. Buchanan had been out of office scarcely six weeks and retired to Lancaster, Pa.

VanBuren doubted that such a conference would "be useful" and

went on to say, "I have not been able to bring my mind to the execution of the plan for bringing them (the ex-Presidents) together." However, he expressed willingness to attend such a conference if called by Pierce or one of the other ex-Presidents.

Whether Pierce anticipated VanBuren's negative reply, or changed his own mind in the interim, we are told that he addressed a mass - meeting at Concord, N. H., April 21, before VanBuren's letter could have reached him, urging support of Lincoln in his call for troops.

And history tells us that at least one of the living ex-Presidents might have refused to attend such a "summit meeting." John Tyler of Virginia had cast his lot with the Confederacy and was elected to the Confederate Congress. He died less than a year later, Jan. 18, 1862, before the Congress met.

Another living ex-President, Millard Fillmore, had succeeded President Zachary Taylor in 1850 and was not renominated by the Whigs. He had run again on the "Know - Nothing" ticket in 1856 and lost to Buchanan. Fillmore died March 8, 1874, the last of the group.

Lincoln's Midnight Jig

PHOTOGRAPHS, paintings, and sculptures of Abraham Lincoln suggest he was dignified—perhaps even staid—and not given to impulsive demonstrations. But the Tribune's Joseph Garrett, digging thru back copies of the newspaper, came upon an account of a rare display put on by the President in 1861. He had been awakened on the evening of July 21 and informed of a Union flotilla's capture of strategic Fort Hatteras on the North Carolina coast. The victory was essential to the Civil war strategy of blockading Confederate ports. A Tribune article years later described the incident: "Lincoln was aroused, and Postmaster Montgomery Blair and navy Capt. Gustavus Fox were speedily summoned. Mr. Lincoln appeared in a long white night shirt, and, upon hearing the news, seized Fox in his arms, and the two danced around the room, the President's long, naked legs cutting the wildest capers." ●

Today's Lincoln cover was designed in 1865 by W. H. Pratt, of Davenport, Ia., and is an example of the art of calligraphy, which flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries.

A TRUE STORY OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

How He Received the News of Victory at Rich Mountain.

Major-General Schuyler Hamilton, in New York Sun.

To acknowledge your courtesy I send you a fine story of Abraham Lincoln. You may think it too fine to publish. A telegram was received by General Scott, announcing the victory of the Union army, under Little Mac and Rosy, at Rich Mountain, West Virginia, July 11, 1861.

As military secretary I had, previously, under the commands of General Scott, disturbed the President five times that night. When I knocked for the sixth time at the door of the President's bedchamber he appeared, exhibiting some little vexation, in a red flannel shirt, which, out of modesty, he was holding down in front. He said, "Colonel, do you ever sleep?" The reply was, "Mr. President I was about to ask you the same question." He said, "I have not slept much since this civil war began." The rejoinder was, "Indeed, Mr. President, I regret to have to disturb you so often [I had to do it several times almost every night], but you know, Mr. President, I am under authority, and must obey General Scott's orders without question." "Oh, Colonel, I understand that very well. I have been disturbed at every hour of the night to-night, and poor Mrs. Lincoln also. [It was then about 4 A. M.] She is now asleep, and I hated to disturb her, but she has got my dressing-gown twisted around her feet, so I have had to come out in my red shirt. Either I have grown too long or the shirt has grown too short, I know not which."

But I said: "Mr. President, the telegram I hold in my hand will give you the greatest pleasure; it is the announcement of the first victory of the Union army." "But, Colonel, what am I to do?"

"Oh, Mr. President, I think we can manage that. If you will allow me for once in my life to turn my back on the President of the United States, you can let go and I can pass the telegram over my shoulder." "Do so, Colonel," said he. I faced about, and passed the telegram over my shoulder. He read it, pondered it, read it aloud. "Colonel," he asked, "is there anything in corroboration of this telegram?" "A great deal, Mr. President," was the reply.

"Colonel," and there was a happy rhythm in his voice, a ripple of merriment and satisfaction; "Colonel, if you will come to me every night and every hour of every night with just such telegrams as that, I will come out not only in my red shirt, but without any shirt at all. Tell General Scott so." He handed me back the telegram over my shoulder, to be duly placed on file, and bade me good night. The door closed, and so closes one of the many characteristic incidents in the life of the martyr President in which I had the honor to be officially a participant.

